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(54) **Start code detecting apparatus for video data stream**

(57) In a video decoding and decompression system having an input, an output and a plurality of processing stages between the input and the output defining a pipeline, the improvement comprising :

a token generator responsive to a data stream received via said input for generating an interactive interfacing control token, defining a universal adaptation unit, for data functions among said processing stages, wherein said token is variable in length and is transmitted serially through said processing stages of said pipeline, and wherein said token is altered by a said processing stage ;
a first two wire interface disposed between a preceding member and a succeeding member of a pair of adjacent stages comprising an input data storage device (LDIN) and an output data storage device (LDOUT) in each member of said pair, with an output data storage device of the preceding member connected to an input data storage device of the succeeding member, the combination comprising :
validation circuitry in each said member to generate a validation signal (IN_VALID, OUT_VALID) with a first state when data stored therein is valid and with a second state when data stored therein is invalid, said state defining the respective members ability to accept data;

said validation circuitry having at least one validation storage device (LVOUT) to store said validation signal of the respective member of said pair ;
said pair of stages being connected by an acceptance line which conveys an acceptance signal (IN_ACCEPT, OUT_ACCEPT) indicative of the ability of said succeeding member to load data stored in said preceding member ; and
said data storage devices (LDOUT) and validation storage devices (LVOUT) being connected to enabling circuitry to generate an enabling signal to enable loading of data and validation signals into said respective storage devices ;
whereby said processing stages are afforded enhanced flexibility in the processing of data.

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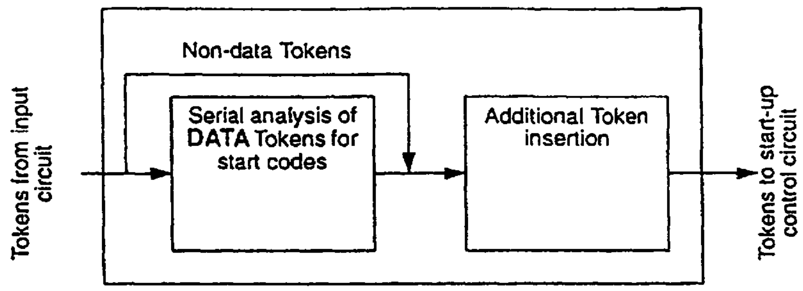
Non-data Tokens
Tokens from input circuit
Serial analysis of DATA Tokens for start codes
Additional Token insertion
Tokens to start-up control circuit

FIG.6 I

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 98 20 2172

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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims

Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE	29 July 1999	Giannotti, P

CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS

X : particularly relevant if taken alone
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A : technological background
O : non-written disclosure
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T : theory or principle underlying the invention
E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date
D : document cited in the application
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& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document

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Application Number
EP 98 20 2172

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